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INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY Austria

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SUBJECT Jugend Bewegung Threatens Revolt from
Austrian People's Party (OeVP)

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1. On 10 January 1950 leaders of the OeVP Jugend Bewegung assembled in a special meeting to discuss their deep dissatisfaction with the failure of OeVP leaders to extend both financial and moral support to the Jugend Bewegung, sole youth group officially recognized as an integral organ of the Austrian People's Party. As a result of these discussions the Jugend Bewegung leaders decided to issue an ultimatum to the OeVP leadership. This ultimatum set forth a series of demands and announced that if these issues were not settled satisfactorily by 20 January 1950, Jugend Bewegung could sever its relations with the OeVP and proclaim its independence.

2. The principal demands of the Jugend Bewegung ultimatum to the OeVP leadership were:

- a. That the funds allocated by the OeVP to the Jugend Bewegung be increased from 10,000 schillings to 25,000 schillings per month.
- b. That the OeVP grant special funds to the Jugend Bewegung to publish a monthly magazine, now that the Party no longer finances Ruf der Jugend.
- c. That the OeVP leadership give increased and unequivocal public support to the Jugend Bewegung. This demand was carefully considered by Jugend Bewegung leaders. A group led by Bundesobmann KITEEL felt their plans to revolt against the OeVP should be widely publicized, but Bundesobmann DANKS' proposal that the initial stages of this revolt should be carried out in secret was finally accepted. However, an obscure article regarding the dissension of the Jugend Bewegung appeared in the Salzburger Nachrichten of 12 January 1950.

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Comment: This threatened rebellion of the Jugend Bewegung is a desperate maneuver designed to eliminate the Junge Front and to win for the Jugend Bewegung complete and absolute support of the OeVP. STANGLER and KITTEL, the two Jugend Bewegung leaders most opposed to OeVP patronage of the Junge Front, feel that by supporting the Junge Front OeVP leaders are sacrificing democratic, nationalistic, and Christian ideals, the guiding tenets of all OeVP youth activities; that they are sanctioning neo-Nazism, fostering pan-Germanism within the OeVP ranks, and tacitly approving activities of a youth group which does not adhere to Christian principles and would welcome the establishment of an organization similar to the Hitler Jugend.

Source also believes that delegates to the Jugend Bewegung convention on 26 January will accept their leaders decision to break away from the OeVP and thus force the OeVP leaders to reconsider the Jugend Bewegung ultimatum. He expects Chancellor FIGL will intervene on behalf of the Jugend Bewegung and mediate with OeVP leaders to prevent the Jugend Bewegung from breaking with the Party.

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* Comment: It is difficult to determine what degree of accuracy to assign to this report, since it is known that source leans strongly toward the viewpoint represented by STANGLER and KITTEL.

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